

We Claim:

1. A method for a transmitter to enter a Q-mode comprising:
receiving an all zeros bit pattern;
transmitting a Q-mode symbol; and
entering a Q-mode, wherein the entry and exit of the Q-mode is independent of an operational state of a receiver.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining one or more fine gain values and a number of bits modulated on each of a plurality of carriers.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising mapping an all zeros word to a predetermined constellation point.
4. A protocol for a transmitter to enter a Q-mode comprising:
receiving an all zeros bit pattern;
transmitting a Q-mode symbol; and
entering a Q-mode, wherein the entry and exit of the Q-mode is independent of an operational state of a receiver.
5. The protocol of claim 4, further comprising determining one or more fine gain values and a number of bits modulated on each of a plurality of carriers.
6. The protocol of claim 4, further comprising mapping an all zeros word to a predetermined constellation point.
7. A means for a transmitter to enter a Q-mode comprising:
means for receiving an all zeros bit pattern;
means for transmitting a Q-mode symbol; and
means for entering a Q-mode, wherein the entry and exit of the Q-mode is independent of an operational state of a receiver.

8. The means of claim 7, further comprising means for determining one or more fine gain values and a number of bits modulated on each of a plurality of carriers.

9. The means of claim 7, further comprising means for mapping an all zeros word to a predetermined constellation point.

10. An information storage media comprising information that allows a transmitter to enter a Q-mode comprising:
information that receives an all zeros bit pattern;
information that transmits a Q-mode symbol; and
information that allows the transmitter to enter a Q-mode, wherein the entry and exit of the Q-mode is independent of an operational state of a receiver.

11. The media of claim 10, further comprising information that determines one or more fine gain values and a number of bits modulated on each of a plurality of carriers.

12. The media of claim 10, further comprising information that maps an all zeros word to a predetermined constellation point.

13. A method of conserving power in a multicarrier communication system comprising:
transmitting a Q-mode symbol indicating a transmitter is entering a Q-mode;
seamlessly transitioning into and out of the Q-mode, wherein a receiver demodulates both the Q-mode symbol and one or more information bits.